24th December 1953]

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" On account of monsoon rains, it was postponed."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Has there ever been any precedent in history where merely because of monsoon rains, election was put off in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" This year the rain was so heavy that the election had to be postponed."

Government Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode.

* 236 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of beds increased in the Kozhikode Headquarters Hospital after the hospital has been shifted from the old building to the new; and

(*b*) how many attenders have been increased due to the increase in bed strength?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) A proposal for the increase of bed-strength of the Government Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode, consequent on its shifting to the new building and employment of additional staff, is under consideration in connection with the next year's budget."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Have the Government received a report from the District Medical Officer, Kozhikode, to the effect that the workload of the attenders had increased enormously and that additional staff should be sanctioned immediately? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സാർ, കോഴിക്കോട്ട ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ രോഗികൾ എത്രയും അധികമായതിനാൽ (അവിടെ രണ്ടു് ബ്ലോക്കുകൾ എടുക്കുവാനുള്ള പണി നിർത്തിവെച്ചിരിക്കയാണ്). ഈ രണ്ടു ബ്ലോക്കുകളുടെ പ്രവൃത്തി പൂർത്തിയാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടു അടിയന്തരമായി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Information on this matter has been called for from the Director of Medical Services."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" In view of the fact that the number of attenders has not been increased in proportion to the increase in the bed-strength and the attenders are finding it difficult to attend on every patient, will the Government take immediate steps to increase the number of attenders? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" By ' attenders ' the hon. Member means ward-boys."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Increase of bed-strength and the employment of additional staff—both these matters are under consideration."

Number of officers belonging to backward classes in the Agriculture department.

* 237 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Gazetted Officers of various categories in the department of Agriculture, who belong to backward classes; and

(*b*) the total number of officers in the Agricultural Subordinate Service and the number belonging to backward classes in that service?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The total number of Gazetted Officers belonging to backward classes in the Agricultural Department is nine.

" (*b*) The total number of subordinates in the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Service is 1,958. Of these, 288 persons belong to the Backward classes."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" I think the Hon. Minister remembers that the Government has recently awarded the State Prize in the Paddy Crop Yield Competition to one Mr. A. Sankaranarayana Thevar of Ramanathapuram district who produced 11,255 lb. of paddy on one acre of land, while the average yield per acre in the State is 1,700 lb. As generally Backward Classes are experts in agriculture, will the Government be pleased to take in men from Backward Classes who possess the minimum qualification in preference to men from the forward classes who have only theoretical knowledge and no practical experience? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member is aware that representation for Backward Classes can be given only in initial recruitment. Gazetted officers are generally promotees from among the subordinate ranks. For the posts of Demonstrators, only B.Sc. in Agriculture and above are recruited. I would like to tell the hon. Member that, for the schemes which I have been examining, there is a shortage of personnel and that, therefore, there should be no difficulty in recruiting any number of Backward Class B.Scs. in Agriculture if only they come forward."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister how many candidates from the Backward Communities applied in the recent direct recruitment to the cadre of District Agricultural Officers? Is it not a fact that three applicants from the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community were there and that not even one was selected even though they possessed the required minimum qualification? "